

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

2 INTRODUCED BY PETERSON, MCNUTT, BUTCHER, CAMPBELL, WAITSCHIES

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT
6 LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO INCREASE AND MAINTAIN A
7 MINIMUM POOL ELEVATION IN FORT PECK RESERVOIR OF 2226 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.
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9 WHEREAS, due to management of downstream barge traffic by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the
10 water levels of Fort Peck Reservoir have reached historic lows; and

11 WHEREAS, the low water levels have had an adverse impact on recreational uses of Fort Peck
12 Reservoir; and

13 WHEREAS, the declining water levels have had an adverse effect on fisheries management of Fort
14 Peck Reservoir; and

15 WHEREAS, declining reservoir levels are affecting the availability of water for irrigation and other
16 agricultural uses; and

17 WHEREAS, reduced reservoir levels have exposed thousands of acres of land, resulting in an
18 accelerated spread of noxious weeds; and

19 WHEREAS, the reduced water levels have caused a severe economic impact on all of central and
20 eastern Montana in that marinas have closed, most boat ramps no longer reach the water and are unusable,
21 and recreational boaters have limited use of the reservoir, thereby causing an economic disaster to the service
22 industries of central and eastern Montana that provide food, lodging, fuel, sporting goods, boats, and marinas;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, studies have concluded that the economic value of barge traffic is approximately \$7 million
25 annually, and the economic value of recreational uses of upstream dams is estimated to be \$85 million annually;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the drawdown of the reservoirs on the Missouri River will have an impact on the cost of
28 electricity to customers that receive power from the Western Area Power Administration; and

29 WHEREAS, restoring the lake level to 2226 feet above mean sea level will restore most of the
30 recreational uses and will still allow for future flood control.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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4 That Montana's Congressional Delegation be strongly urged to introduce and support legislation
5 requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to increase and maintain a minimum pool elevation in Fort Peck
6 Reservoir of 2226 feet above mean sea level.

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